Note on Comet Brooks.

The telegram announcing the discovery of a comet by Dr. W. R. Brooks was received here on the morning of April 16th. It was observed the following morning (Thursday) with the 12-inch telescope, and was found to be a rather bright telescopic object. By comparison with neighboring stars, its light was estimated as about equal to that of a star of 8.5 magnitude. A straight tail could be traced fully half a degree, in position-angle 295°.5 (April 16 at 16^h 5^m, Mt. Hamilton M. T.) or directly away from the Sun. The condensation in the head of the comet was well defined, but there was no stellar nucleus.

On the following morning the sky was cloudy, but the comet was seen twice at intervals of nearly five minutes, and each time for only a few seconds. Advantage was taken of these glimpses to make one setting each in R. A. and Decl. Owing to continued bad weather, the comet has not been seen here since. As the comet was rapidly approaching the Sun, and as no observations were received here for dates later than April 16th, I used the Koenigsberg and Mt. Hamilton observations of that date (the time interval between them being about 10½ hours) and the incomplete observations of the 17th to derive an approximate set of elements, with the following result:—

$$T = \text{May } 6.82$$
$$\omega = 226^\circ\ 13'$$
$$\Omega = 51\ 31$$
$$i = 68\ 18$$
$$\text{Natural } q = 0.4643.$$

Because of the uncertainty of the third observation, these elements were considered as merely a rough approximation, but it will be seen that they are in close agreement with those cabled later on from Kiel,* which were based on observations made in Europe on April 16th, 17th, and 18th. They show that the comet will not be visible to observers in the northern hemisphere for several months. By that time it will be so far from the Earth and Sun that it is very doubtful whether it will be bright enough to be seen. It is to be hoped that observers in the southern hemisphere have been more fortunate in securing measures of this comet than those in Europe and America.

May 14, 1902. R. G. Aitken.

*See Astronomical telegrams, on another page of this number.

MEASURES OF THE COMPANION OF *SIRIUS*.

During the present season I have obtained the following measures of the companion of *Sirius* with the thirty-six-inch refractor:—

1901.853	129°.2	5″.30
1902.237	127 .8	5 .32
.239	127 .6	5 .57
.241	126 .3	5 .58
.252	126 .4	5 .49
.255	125 .2	5 .48
1902.18	127°.1	5″.46

The interpolated place of the companion for the mean date from ZWIERS's ephemeris is 125°.3, 5″.48.

W. H. HUSSEY.

MEASURES OF THE COMPANION TO *SIRIUS*.

The following measures of the companion to *Sirius* were made with the 36-inch telescope, using an eye-piece with a power of 520. The observing conditions were most favorable on the second night. On the last night the seeing was poor, and measures were made with difficulty:—

	θ	ρ	Sid. Time.
1902.238	127°.5	5″.50	8^h.0
.241	126 .0	5 .46	7 .0
.252	129 .5	5 .51	8 .3
1902.24	127°.7	5″.49	

ZWIERS's orbit gives the position for 1902.24 as 124°.8, 5″.51.

May 15, 1902. R. G. AITKEN.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Dr. W. W. CAMPBELL, Director of the Lick Observatory, was elected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences at the last annual meeting, held in Washington, D. C., on April 17th.

Dr. S. D. TOWNLEY, of the Astronomical Department at Berkeley, will spend the summer vacation at the Lick Observatory, devoting his time to the observation of variable stars and to other photometric work.